

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

WELLINGTON DA MATA,

Plaintiff,

-against-

CITY OF NEW YORK, TERRANCE WILLIAMS, and
JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10,

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

ECF CASE
Docket No.

Defendants.

-----X

Plaintiff, WELLINGTON DA MATA, by and through the undersigned attorneys, Sim & DePaola, LLP, for his complaint against the Defendants, CITY OF NEW YORK, TERRANCE WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, alleges and states as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil rights action in which Plaintiff seeks relief through 42 U.S.C. § § 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986 and 1988 for the violation of his civil rights protected by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments, in addition to violations of the Laws of the State of New York.
2. These claims arise from a February 27, 2019 incident in which defendants, acting under color of state law, unlawfully arrested and detained Mr. Da Mata without probable cause. Mr. Da Mata was subsequently charged with one (1) count of Petit Larceny. As a result, Mr. Da Mata was wrongfully incarcerated over the course of two (2) days. He was maliciously prosecuted, until the dismissal of the charges on May 23, 2019.
3. The above referenced acts caused Mr. Da Mata to be deprived of his liberty and to sustain various emotional and physical injuries. Mr. Da Mata was wrongfully detained and incarcerated for approximately two (2) days, from the date of his arrest up to, and until, his release on or about March 1, 2019.

4. Plaintiff seeks monetary damages (compensatory and punitive) against Defendants, as well as an award of costs and attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURISDICTION

5. This action arises under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and under 42 U.S.C. §1983 and §1988 and the Laws of the State of New York.

6. The jurisdiction of this court is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343(a)(3) and (4), 1337(a) and the doctrine of supplemental jurisdiction.

VENUE

7. Venue is laid within the Southern District of New York in that Defendant City of New York is located within and a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims occurred within the boundaries of the Southern District. 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (b) and (c).

PARTIES

8. Plaintiff, WELLINGTON DA MATA ("Mr. Da Mata"), is a Hispanic male, who resides in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey.

9. The Defendant, City of New York ("City"), is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

10. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant City, acting through the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), was responsible for the policy, practice, supervision, implementation, and conduct of all NYPD matters and was responsible for the appointment, training, supervision, discipline and retention and conduct of all NYPD personnel, including police officers, detectives, and supervisory officers as well as the individually named Defendants herein.

11. In addition, at all times here relevant, Defendant City was responsible for enforcing the rules of the NYPD, and for ensuring that the NYPD personnel obey the laws of the United States and the State of New York.

12. Defendant, Terrance Williams (“WILLIAMS”), was, at all relevant times herein, a police officer employed by the NYPD and as such was acting in the capacity of an agent, servant and employee of the City of New York. Defendant WILLIAMS was, at all relevant times herein, a police officer under Shield No. 5134 and Tax Reg. No. 942711 and assigned to Midtown North Precinct Detective Squad, located at 306 West 54th Street, New York, New York 10019. Defendant WILLIAMS is being sued in his individual and official capacities.

13. At all relevant times, Defendants John or Jane Doe 1 through 10 were police officers, detectives, supervisors, policy makers and/or officials employed by the NYPD. At this time, Plaintiff does not know the true names or tax registry numbers of John or Jane Doe 1 through 10, but believes such knowledge is within possession of the defendants.

14. At all relevant times herein, Defendants John or Jane Doe 1 through 10 were acting as agents, servants and employees of the City of New York, the NYPD. Defendants John or Jane Doe 1 through 10 are being sued in their individual and official capacities.

15. At all relevant times herein, Defendants were acting under color of state law, to wit, under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of the City and State of New York.

16. Plaintiff has filed a written notice of claim with the New York City Office of the Comptroller.

17. Plaintiff has or will comply with municipal defendant’s request for an oral examination pursuant to Section 50-H of the New York General Municipal Law.

18. This action has been commenced within one year and ninety days from the relevant accrual dates.

FACTUAL CHARGES

19. On February 27, 2019, at approximately 8:30 a.m., Mr. Da Mata was in his home in the vicinity of 5 Van Breeman Street, County of Essex, State of New Jersey.

20. At all times herein mentioned, Mr. Da Mata was in obeyance of all laws, then in effect.

21. While Mr. Da Mata was in his home, Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, illegally searched and seized Mr. Da Mata although he had not committed any crimes.

22. Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, confronted and assaulted Mr. Da Mata by physically restraining him, violently contorting his arms and wrists behind his back without any legal basis or justification for doing so.

23. Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, illegally search Mr. Da Mata's person, as Mr. Da Mata had not committed any crimes and there were no indicia of stolen property on his person.

24. Defendant WILLIAMS falsely claimed that he recovered a stolen "gem cutting machine" from Mr. Da Mata.

25. Mr. Da Mata was not in unlawful possession of a "gem cutting machine."

26. Mr. Da Mata asserts that the "gem cutting machine" was not stolen as he was the actual and true owner of said machine.

27. Under information and belief, Defendant WILLIAMS and purported complaint were friends from high school or childhood.

28. Defendant WILLIAMS illegally arrested Mr. Da Mata for the possession of his own property and, with the assistance of his childhood friend, completely fabricated the allegation that the subject gem cutting machine was stolen.

29. Plaintiff on numerous occasions during the subjected incident informed Defendants including Defendant WILLIAMS he was in fact the owner or the purported stolen item and offered to provide proof of ownership which was rejected.

30. Defendant WILLIAMS either knew or reasonably should have known that Mr. Da Mata was never in possession of any stolen property, as the item alleged to have been recovered belonged to the Plaintiff.

31. Defendant WILLIAMS applied the handcuffs to Mr. Da Mata's person in an excessively forceful and tight fashion, causing him to suffer substantial pain and discomfort.

32. Upon arrival at the precinct, Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, conducted or authorized an illegal strip search, cavity inspection, fingerprinting and retina scans of Mr. Da Mata's person.

33. Defendant WILLIAMS illegal strip search, cavity inspection, fingerprinting and retina scans of Mr. Da Mata's person yielded nothing of probative value and was conducted without any particular justification, as there were no indication that plaintiff had secreted contraband into a body cavity.

34. The accusatory instrument, also referred to as a Criminal Court Complaint, was signed by Defendant WILLIAMS.

35. The criminal court complaint contained false allegations based on the personal observations of Defendant WILLIAMS, which they either knew or should have known to be completely untrue.

36. Defendant WILLIAMS knowingly and intentionally gave false, misleading, or incomplete information to the District Attorney's Office, so that a criminal prosecution would be initiated against Mr. Da Mata.

37. Mr. Da Mata asserts that Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, arrested and detained him with the full knowledge that he committed no crimes or violations of the law.

38. Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, never observed Mr. Da Mata to be in actual or constructive possession of the alleged "stolen property."

39. No witnesses ever informed Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, that Mr. Da Mata was in possession of stolen property.

40. Mr. Da Mata further asserts that Defendant WILLIAMS, despite his knowledge that Mr. Da Mata had committed no crimes or arrestable offenses, proceeded to intentionally, knowingly and maliciously provide the District Attorney's Office with the aforementioned false information, so that a criminal prosecution would be initiated against Mr. Da Mata.

41. Mr. Da Mata, therefore, asserts that due to the glaring and pervasive absence of any viable probable cause to warrant his detention and prosecution, at any point, he was unlawfully detained and maliciously prosecuted from the moment he was illegally searched and seized by Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, up to, and until the dismissal of the criminal charges against him.

42. Mr. Da Mata also asserts that his rights, under the United States Constitution and the laws of the State of New York, were further violated, even after his release following his arraignment.

43. Mr. Da Mata 's assertion is based on his having to return to court to defend his innocence against completely inane charges.

44. These gratuitous infringements persisted until all charges against Mr. Da Mata were dismissed and sealed on May 23, 2019, which constitutes a favorable termination of the criminal proceedings against him.

45. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, was involved in the decision to arrest Plaintiff without probable cause or failed to intervene when they observed others arresting Plaintiff without probable cause.

46. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants, including WILLIAMS and JOHN or JANE DOE 1-10, acted maliciously and with intent to injure Plaintiff.

47. Defendant City has engaged in a policy, custom, or pattern and practice of illegally searching and seizing ethnic minorities without probable cause or reasonable suspicion to do so.

48. Defendant City has also engaged in a policy, custom, or pattern and practice of illegally searching and seizing ethnic minorities without any justification to do so.

49. Mr. Da Mata asserts that the aforementioned unlawful acts committed by Defendants are representative of a pervasive policy, custom or pattern and practice within the City of New York and the NYPD.

50. Mr. Da Mata asserts that Defendant WILLIAMS illegally searched and seized him, and then falsely arrested him, due to their racial, ethnic, social, or religious discriminatory prejudices, their desire to meet an arrest quota and to benefit from increased overtime compensation.

51. Mr. Da Mata further asserts that Defendant WILLIAMS acted in such an unlawfully reprehensible manner, due to their assumption that Defendant's version of events would undoubtedly and unduly be credited over Mr. Da Mata's, because, *inter alia*, Mr. Da Mata is a Hispanic male.

52. Defendant WILLIAMS arrested and maliciously prosecuted Plaintiff, not because of any probable cause to believe Plaintiff had committed any crimes or violations of the law, but because Plaintiff is a Hispanic male.

53. Defendant WILLIAMS discriminated against Plaintiff by arresting, assaulting, battering, and maliciously prosecuting Plaintiff, due to Defendant's perception or consideration of Plaintiff's race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender or age.

54. Defendant WILLIAMS perpetrated multiple overt acts in furtherance of their obviously discriminatory inclinations, namely the unlawful searches, assaults, batteries, seizure, arrest, and malicious prosecution against plaintiff.

55. Defendant WILLIAMS unlawfully questioned, searched, seized, arrested, and maliciously prosecuted plaintiff, due to, *inter alia*, defendant's perception or consideration of Plaintiff's race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender or age.

56. Defendant WILLIAMS possessed no valid reason to search and to arrest Plaintiff, which gives rise to the strong inference that the unlawful acts committed by Defendant WILLIAMS against Plaintiff were discriminatorily motivated and enacted upon.

57. Defendant WILLIAMS subjected Plaintiff to disparate treatment compared to other individuals similarly situated, because Defendant did not search and seize white individuals, who were actually committing crimes in the Defendant's view.

58. Upon information and belief, the NYPD, the City of New York, and their respective policy and decision makers and supervisors have imposed or acquiesced to policies or customs within the NYPD that resulted in Plaintiff's arrest and malicious prosecution without probable cause.

59. Upon information and belief, the NYPD, the City of New York, and their respective policy and decision makers and supervisors have failed to provide adequate training in the identification of probable cause or reasonable suspicion and the appropriate amount of force to be used.

60. Upon information and belief, the NYPD, the City of New York, and their respective policy and decision makers and supervisors have imposed or acquiesced to policies or customs within the NYPD that resulted in Plaintiff's arrest without probable cause.

61. Upon information and belief, the NYPD, the City of New York, and their respective policy and decision makers and supervisors have failed to provide adequate training in the identification of probable cause or reasonable suspicion.

62. The instant arrest of Plaintiff, without even the semblance of probable cause, was so egregious as to amount to deliberate indifference by the policy and decision makers within the NYPD and City of New York, because the need for enhanced training and supervision is obvious due to the clear lack of any probable cause to arrest and prosecute Plaintiff.

63. Upon information and belief, further details and factual allegations will become available after discovery is completed, as the current policies and customs of the NYPD and City of New York are within the exclusive knowledge of Defendants.

64. Upon information and belief, the personnel files and records of the individual officers involved in Plaintiff's arrest will reveal a history of Constitutional violations or a severe ignorance of the very laws the defendant officers are employed to enforce that will indicate that Defendant City knew, or should have known that the individual officers were unfit for employment as NYPD officers and/or supervisors and would be likely to commit Constitutional violations similar to the violations that were committed against Mr. Da Mata .

65. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of Defendants, Plaintiff sustained the following injuries and damages: deprivations of his rights pursuant to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, violations of the laws and Constitution of the State of New York, physical injury, physical pain and suffering, emotional trauma and suffering, including fear, embarrassment, humiliation, emotional distress, frustration, extreme inconvenience, anxiety, loss of liberty and harm to reputation.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

False Arrest and False Imprisonment Under
New York State Law

66. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 65 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

67. Defendants subjected Plaintiff to false arrest, false imprisonment, and deprivation of liberty without a valid warrant or probable cause.

68. Plaintiff was conscious of his confinement.

69. Plaintiff did not consent to his confinement.

70. Plaintiff's arrest and false imprisonment was not otherwise privileged.

71. Defendant City of New York, as employer of the individual Defendants, is responsible for their wrongdoings under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

72. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

False Arrest and False Imprisonment Under
42 U.S.C. § 1983 Against Individual Defendants

73. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 72 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

74. The Defendants violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution by wrongfully and illegally arresting, detaining and imprisoning Plaintiff.

75. The wrongful, unjustifiable, and unlawful apprehension, arrest, detention, and imprisonment of Plaintiff was carried out without a valid warrant, without Plaintiff's consent, and without probable cause or reasonable suspicion.

76. At all relevant times, Defendants acted forcibly in apprehending, arresting, and imprisoning Plaintiff.

77. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
Assault and Battery Under
New York State Law

78. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 77 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

79. At all relevant times, Defendants caused Plaintiff to fear for his physical well-being and safety and placed him in apprehension of immediate harmful and/or offensive touching.

80. Defendants engaged in and subjected Plaintiff to immediate harmful and/or offensive touching and battered him without his consent or justification.

81. Due to the intentional, willful and unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff suffered damages.

82. Defendant City, as employer of the individual Defendants, is responsible for their wrongdoing under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

83. As a direct and proximate result of this breach, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Excessive Force Under
42 U.S.C. § 1983 Against Individual Defendants

84. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 83 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

85. The Defendants violated Plaintiff's rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments, because they used unreasonable force without Plaintiff's consent.

86. Defendants engaged in and subjected Plaintiff to immediate harmful and/or offensive touching and battered him without his consent.

87. As a direct and proximate result of this breach, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Malicious Prosecution Under
New York State Law

88. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 87 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

89. Defendants initiated the prosecution against Plaintiff.

90. Defendants lacked probable cause to believe Plaintiff was guilty or that the prosecution would succeed.

91. Defendants acted with malice.

92. In the absence of probable cause, malice may be inferred.

93. The prosecution was terminated in Plaintiff's favor.

94. Due to the intentional, willful and unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff suffered significant damages.

95. Defendant City, as employer of the individual Defendants, is responsible for their wrongdoing under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

96. As a direct and proximate result of this breach, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Malicious Prosecution Under
42 U.S.C. § 1983 Against Individual Defendants

97. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 96 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

98. Defendants initiated the prosecution against Plaintiff.

99. Defendants lacked probable cause to believe Plaintiff was guilty or that the prosecution would succeed.

100. Defendants acted with malice.

101. The prosecution was terminated in Plaintiff's favor.

102. Defendants violated Plaintiff's Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights by causing Plaintiff to remain incarcerated against his will after his arraignment and trial by jury

103. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Intervene Under
New York State Law

104. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 103 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

105. Those Defendants that were present but did not actively participate in the aforementioned unlawful conduct, observed such conduct, had an opportunity to prevent such conduct, had a duty to intervene and prevent such conduct, and failed to intervene.

106. Defendant City, as employer of the individual Defendants, is responsible for their wrongdoing under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

107. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Intervene Under
42 U.S.C. § 1983 Against Individual Defendants

108. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 107 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

109. Those Defendants that were present but did not actively participate in the aforementioned unlawful conduct observed such conduct, had an opportunity to prevent such conduct, had a duty to intervene and prevent such conduct, and failed to intervene.

110. Accordingly, the Defendants who failed to intervene violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments.

111. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Malicious Abuse of Process Under
New York State Law

112. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 111 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

113. Defendants arrested, detained and caused a criminal prosecution to be initiated against Plaintiff to compel the compliance or forbearance of some act.

114. Defendants had no excuse or justification to forcibly detain or initiate a prosecution against Plaintiff, especially with the absence of any cognizable probable cause.

115. Defendants intended to inflict substantial harm upon Plaintiff.

116. Defendants acted to achieve a collateral purpose, beyond or in addition to Plaintiff's criminal prosecution.

117. Defendant City, as employer of the individual Defendants, is responsible for their wrongdoing under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

118. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Malicious Abuse of Process Under
42 U.S.C. § 1983 Against Individual Defendants

119. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 118 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

120. Defendants arrested, detained and caused a criminal prosecution to be initiated against Plaintiff to compel the compliance or forbearance of some act.

121. Defendants had no excuse or justification to forcibly detain and initiate a prosecution against Plaintiff, especially with the absence of any cognizable probable cause.

122. Defendants intended to inflict substantial harm upon Plaintiff.

123. Defendants acted to achieve a collateral purpose, beyond or in addition to Plaintiff's criminal prosecution.

124. Defendants' actions deprived Plaintiff of his right to free from illegal searches and seizures, as well as his right not to be deprived of his liberty without due process of law.

125. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Deprivation of Rights and Denial of Equal Protection of the Laws under
New York State law

126. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 125 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein. Plaintiff, as a Hispanic male, is a member of a racial minority and protected class.

127. Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff on the basis of his race, national origin, ethnicity, religion or sex.

128. Defendants also engaged in the selective of Plaintiff, in comparison to others similarly situated.

129. Defendants' selective treatment of Plaintiff was based on impermissible considerations, such as race, religion, intent to inhibit or punish Plaintiff's exertion of his Constitutional rights, or a malicious or bad faith intent to injure Plaintiff.

130. Defendants applied facially neutral laws against Plaintiff in a discriminatory manner.

131. Defendants, motivated by discriminatory animus, applied facially neutral statutes with adverse effects against Plaintiff.

132. Defendants did not possess a rational basis, excuse or justification for applying any laws or statutes against Plaintiff.

133. Defendant City, as employer of the individual Defendants, is responsible for their wrongdoing under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

134. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Deprivation of Rights and Denial of Equal Protection of the Laws under
42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1983 Against Individual Defendants

135. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 134 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

136. Plaintiff, as a Hispanic male, is a member of a racial minority and protected class.

137. Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff on the basis of his race, national origin, ethnicity, religion or sex.

138. Defendants also selectively treated Plaintiff in comparison to others similarly situated.

139. Defendants' selective treatment of Plaintiff was based on impermissible considerations, such as race, religion, intent to inhibit or punish Plaintiff's exertion of his Constitutional rights, or malicious or bad faith intent to injure Plaintiff.

140. Defendants applied facially neutral laws against Plaintiff in a discriminatory manner.

141. Defendants, motivated by a discriminatory animus, applied facially neutral penal statutes with adverse effects against Plaintiff.

142. Defendants did not possess a rational basis, excuse or justification for applying any laws or statutes against Plaintiff.

143. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

THIRTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Conspiracy to Interfere with Civil Rights and Failure to Prevent the Conspiracy under
42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 1985 and 1986 Against Individual Defendants

144. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 143 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

145. Defendants engaged in a conspiracy against Plaintiff to deprive Plaintiff of the equal protection of the laws, or of the privileges and immunities under the laws.

146. Defendants committed overt acts in furtherance of their conspiracy against Plaintiff.

147. Plaintiff sustained injuries to his person or was deprived of rights or privileges of citizens of the United States.

148. Defendants' conspiracy was motivated by some racial, or otherwise class-based, invidious discriminatory animus.

149. The Defendants that did not engage or participate in the conspiracy to interfere with Plaintiff's civil rights, had knowledge that acts in furtherance of the conspiracy were about to be committed or being committed, possessed the power to prevent or aid, and neglected to do so.

150. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligent Hiring, Retention and Supervision Under New York State Law

151. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 150 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein. Defendant City owed a duty of care to Plaintiff to adequately hire, retain and supervise its employee defendants.

152. Defendant City breached that duty of care.

153. Defendant City placed defendants in a position where they could inflict foreseeable harm.

154. Defendant City knew or reasonably should have known of its employee defendants' propensity for violating the individual rights granted under the United States Constitution and the laws of the State of New York, prior to the injuries incurred by Plaintiff.

155. Defendant City failed to take reasonable measures in hiring, retaining and supervising its employee defendants that would have prevented the aforesaid injuries to Plaintiff.

156. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

FIFTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Municipal "*Monell*" Liability Under
42 U.S.C. § 1983 Against Defendant City

157. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers Paragraph 1 through 156 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein. Defendant City maintained a policy, custom or practice that caused Plaintiff to be deprived of her Constitutional right to free from illegal searches and seizures.

158. Defendant City's illegal practice is so consistent and widespread that it constitutes a custom or usage of which a supervising policy maker must have been aware of.

159. Defendant City and its policymakers failed to provide adequate training or supervision to subordinates to such an extent that it is tantamount to their deliberate indifference towards the rights of those who come into contact with Defendant City's employees.

160. Defendant City's employees engaged in such egregious and flagrant violations of Plaintiff's Constitutional rights that the need for enhanced supervision and training is obvious and therefore tantamount to a display of deliberate indifference by Defendant City and its policymakers towards the rights of individuals who come into contact with defendant City's employees.

161. Defendant City's conduct violated Plaintiff's rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

162. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, Plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

- a) In favor of Plaintiff in an amount to be determined by a jury for each of Plaintiff's causes of action;
- b) Awarding Plaintiff punitive damages in an amount to be determined by a jury;
- c) Awarding Plaintiff compensatory damages in an amount to be determined by a jury;
- d) Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1988; and
- e) Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Dated: January 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

s/Sameer Nath
Sameer Nath, Esq.
Bar Number: 5403662
Sim & DePaola, LLP
Attorneys for Mr. Da Mata
4240 Bell Blvd., Suite 201
Bayside, NY 11361
T: (718) 281-0400
F: (718) 631-2700
snath@simdepaola.com